



# NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**For Immediate Release:**

**June 23, 2021**

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## **Assembly Passes VanderMeer Water Meter Replacement Legislation**

**Madison, WI** – Yesterday during a floor session at the Capitol, the State Assembly passed [2021 Assembly Bill 302](#), authored by Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), via voice vote. The bill, relating to, water meter installation or replacement projects by water utilities, was unanimously passed out of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities earlier this month. Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, is the Senate author of that house’s [companion legislation](#).

“I’m really pleased that we were able to get this bill passed today. Under two months from bill introduction to committee and floor passage is quite the feat in it of itself, and I want to make sure to thank the Village of Vesper and their now retired Public Works Director Don Jagodzinski, the Wisconsin Rural Water Association and their Executive Director Chris Groh, and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities for bringing this to my attention over two years ago, and their help and support to develop this legislation and move it forward,” VanderMeer said.

“Unfortunately, relatively smaller municipalities in the state, like the Village of Vesper and many others in the 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, are inordinately affected by bureaucratic hurdles and contradictory or unnecessary directives from state agencies. They simply don’t have the administrative bandwidth or financial reserves to cater to subjective interpretations of state statutes by pretentious bureaucrats in Madison. This bill provides clarity to existing statutes and provides remedy to municipalities needing to take on a water meter installation or replacement project. The strongest critique of this legislation that I’m aware of came from my colleague Dave Steffen (R-Green Bay), Vice Chair of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities, who understandably was agitated that we in the Legislature would need to run a bill to help try to make the Public Service Commission responsive to it’s customers, the people of Wisconsin,” VanderMeer continued.

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*The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties*